

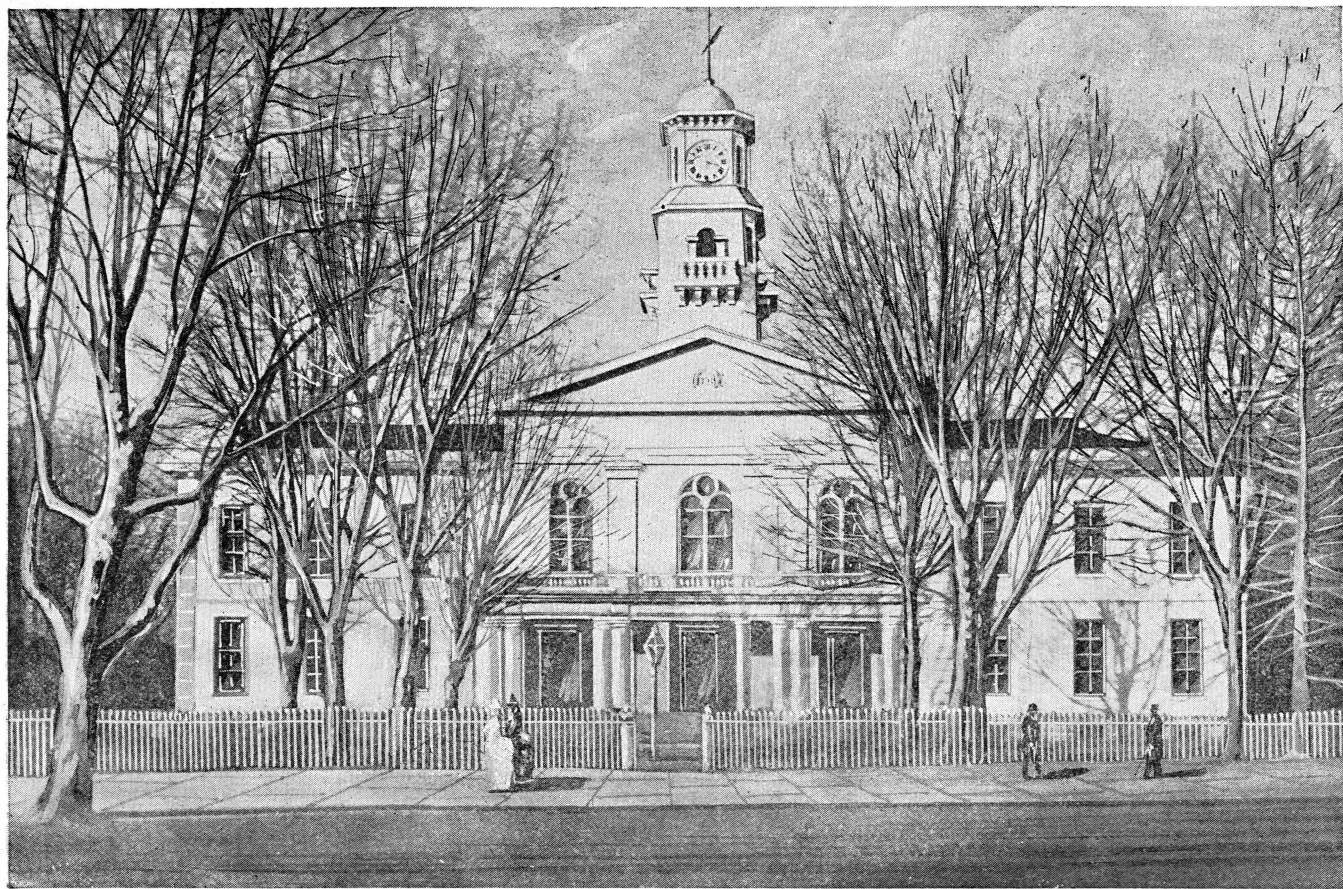
MEDIA, PENNA.

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COURT HOUSE.



COURT HOUSE.



# MEDIA, PENNA.




ITS HISTORY AND GENERAL ADVANTAGES.



ITS CHURCHES, SCHOOLS AND RESIDENCES.



A DESCRIPTION OF THE BEAUFIFUL COUNTY SEAT OF  
DELAWARE COUNTY.



PUBLISHED BY A COMMITTEE OF ITS CITIZENS.



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Media Historic Archives Commission  
1 E. Front Street  
Media, PA 19063

## HISTORY.

BY HON. JOHN M. BROOMALL.

THE Borough of Media, the seat of justice of the county, was chartered in 1850. It is located very nearly in the middle of the county, on the high land between Ridley and Crum creeks, about five miles from the river and is from two to four hundred feet above the ocean level. The eastern portion of the town is comparatively level, but the western, sloping towards Ridley creek, is quite hilly, making it difficult to locate streets



RESIDENCE OF THE LATE MRS. H. JONES BROOKE.

and roads in that direction. The vicinity presents mountain scenery on a small scale, and is very much admired. The high and healthy location, the pure air and the wild roads along the wooded streams, suggestive of pleasure driving, fill the town with summer visitors, from the neighboring city.

Media is 7 miles from the western limit of Philadelphia and is connected



with that city by the Philadelphia and West Chester Railroad which runs 24 passenger trains each way daily.

Like the county, the county town owes its existence to a contest about the seat of Justice. For many years the popularity of Chester had been upon the wane. Its people had given offence by endeavoring to rule the county, and only partially succeeding. Jurors, parties and witnesses believed themselves to be imposed upon by high charges, and they knew themselves to be sneered at and ridiculed by the tavern idlers who constituted most of the *elite* of the town. Besides this, the water was bad and the place was charged with being unhealthy, especially to people from the



RESIDENCE OF HON. JOHN M. BROOMALL.

higher lands, a charge with little or no foundation, for Chester has its full proportion of old men and women in a population congregated from a wide range of climate.

In 1820 an ineffectual attempt was made to remove the seat of Justice to a more central point. In 1845 the effort was renewed, and in 1847 an act of Assembly was passed submitting the question to the votes of the people at the next succeeding election. Not knowing or not properly considering how migratory a seat of Justice would become if its location were voted upon at every election, the people of Chester consented to this

act. The result was just what might have been anticipated, a majority of seven hundred and fifty-two in a vote of about three thousand, in favor of removal. The point being settled that the seat of Justice should be in the center of the county we were struck with some dismay to find that point in Lewis' mill dam. A high plateau half a mile eastward presented itself however, and was selected as the site. The location not having been since changed, it is hardly necessary to say that the experiment of submitting it to the votes of the people has never been tried in Delaware county since.

In the census returns of 1870 the population of Media is given as 1045. In 1880 it had risen to 1010 : and from the rapid increase since then and



RESIDENCE OF WM. H. MILLER.

estimating from the present number of voters the population must be now nearly or quite 3500. Forty years ago a store, a tavern and two or three farm houses constituted the entire town.

By a provision in the Charter the sale of intoxicating drinks is forever prohibited within the Borough limits. The consequence is that Media is one of the most peaceable and orderly places in the country.

There are seven schools supported by the public and three by private enterprise. The latter are a large and well patronized school for girls and young women, a large boarding school for boys and a select school for

both sexes. All these, public and private, are in a flourishing condition.

The Court House is a large and substantial structure, built of stone and brick, the first story being fireproof. It is eighty-two feet by fifty, with two wings, each thirty-eight feet square. The Court room, about sixty feet by forty-six, is in the second story. It is approached by two iron stairways in front and a wooden one in the rear, all leading from the interior of the first story. This story contains the offices of the Prothonotary and Clerk of the Criminal Court, the Register and Clerk of the Orphans' Court, the Recorder of Deeds, the Sheriff, the County Treasurer, the Commissioners and Superintendent of Common Schools. The build-



PENNOCK COTTAGES, SOUTH ORANGE STREET.

ing is erected in the middle of a rectangle 500 feet by 240, surrounded by streets. It is enclosed by an iron fence and is beautifully ornamented with shade and forest trees, many of them of rare varieties. The Court House square contains no other buildings. The prison is situated across the street from it, and is a substantial building adapted to the Pennsylvania system of solitary confinement, a system of very doubtful expediency.

Media is plentifully supplied with places of religious worship. One



Episcopal, one Methodist, one African Methodist, one Presbyterian, one Roman Catholic, one Baptist and two Friends' Meeting Houses. Besides these buildings there are others of a *quasi* public character, the buildings owned and occupied by the First National Bank of Media, the Delaware County Institute of Science, the Delaware County Mutual Insurance Company, the Charter House, Gleave Hall, Brodhead's Hall and other buildings—all substantial structures adapted to use rather than ornament.

The Borough owns a dam and water power on Ridley creek from which water is forced into a basin located on the highest point within the char-



RESIDENCE OF MISS SIDNEY PENNELL.

tered limits, sufficient for any imaginable increase of population for another half-century. The Media Gas Company lights the town with coal gas at a moderate cost and the Media Electric Light Company, just organized, will very soon contribute its efforts to enlighten it further.

We have two National Banks and a private banking house, as well as a branch of the Delaware County Title Insurance and Trust Co.

The high and healthy location of Media, its beautiful surroundings the absence of places for promoting intoxication, and hence the quiet and

orderly character of its inhabitants, render the town one of the most desirable places of residence in Eastern Pennsylvania ; and the rapid increase of fine substantial dwellings shows that its advantages are becoming rapidly known and appreciated. We are but half an hour from Broad Street Station and are really nearer in point of time to the center of business in the city than a large portion of West Philadelphia. From these causes large and rapidly increasing numbers of business men reside in Media and go daily to and from their business in Philadelphia.



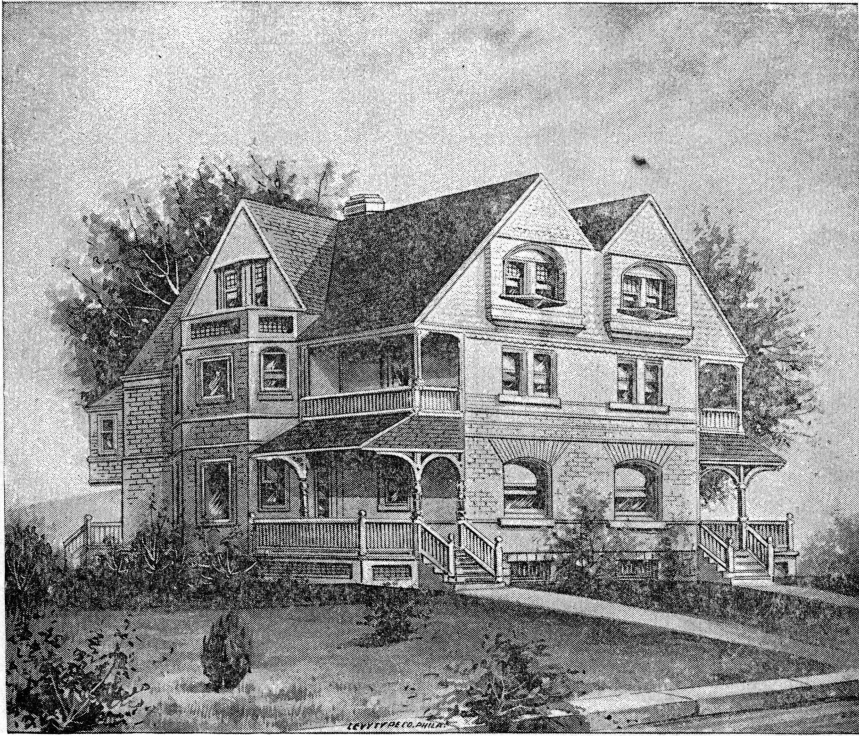
## MEDIA IN GENERAL.

BY STEELE PENNE.

**N**O city in our country has more attractive surroundings for its overflow than Philadelphia, and that is the principal reason why so many of its citizens are selecting residences in the rural districts. At least ten railroads radiate from the city into the surrounding counties of this State making points along their lines within a radius of twenty miles as accessible to the business center as is the extreme lands of the city proper. Formerly the drift of population was from the country to the city, now, through the medium of rapid and frequent transit, it is the other way. The cities grow

in business importance while the country is rapidly becoming the home of those who labor there in their varied callings.

This new order of things which has specially marked the last quarter of a century has seriously affected some branches of business in the country, but at the same time it has brought town and country into close contact and scattered thriving villages and beautiful houses where a few years ago the plow and the sickle planted the seed and gathered the cereal harvest. Luxurious homes for the wealthy, cheap homes for the poor--the country now supplies both for the people of an overcrowded city. If you wish to estimate the extent of this



**BROOKE COTTAGES ON SOUTH AVENUE.**

union of city business with country life all that is necessary is to spend a few hours at the several railroad stations and witness the thousands who arrive daily in the morning trains. I have no means of making a correct estimate, but it is safe to say that twenty-five thousand people whose business is in Philadelphia live outside of the city limits. It is also safe to predict that at the present rate of increase this dependent population of the city, with houses outside will double itself within the next twelve years.



In order to note the trend of population toward the rural districts you need only cast your weather eye over our county along the lines of railway travel. Along the main stem of the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore Railroad, between Philadelphia and Chester, the farms of olden times have been cut up into building lots, and hundreds of dwellings stand where once were cornfields and pasture grounds. Handsome country seats, thriving boroughs, rapidly growing villages occupied mainly by those who have escaped from a crowded city mark the line of the road. Farming has practically ceased and that part of our county forms a part of the suburbs of the great city.

A retrospective glance along the railroad between Philadelphia and Media, on what is now known as the Central Division of the P., W. & B. R. R., will show the increase in population and the corresponding increase in the value of property along that line of travel. A reference to the time tables of 1859, compared with that now in operation will show in part the drift of population along this line of travel, and at the same time the records of the road will further show that quadruple trains carry twenty times the number of passengers that were then transported. It is no exaggeration to say that more persons and more freight are carried between Media and Philadelphia in one day now, than were transported in three weeks thirty years ago. It is further stated on good authority that there is more local travel between our borough and Philadelphia than on the same number of miles of any road leading to that city.

He who doubted Media's future success and prosperity, twenty odd years ago could not see the grand plaza on which it is located ; the high grounds giving it the best of drainage ; the pure, fresh air that fanned it after it had kissed the clover fields and played with the leaves of woods and orchards. He forgot to look into the bright sky with no veil of miasmatic vapor between. Nor did he reflect that a great city's overflow would ultimately seek health and comfort in the choice spots not walled into busy, crowded and heated municipalities. Had he looked, he might have seen all that, and seeing it, he would not have doubted the future of our county seat which has grown into a town of surprising beauty, the joint work of nature and art.

There is no question that since our road passed into the Pennsylvania system we have had a better road, a more frequent and rapid service, which has been mutually advantageous to the road and to the people. It is a well established fact that when either leads, the other follows. The rapid development of Philadelphia along the Media R. R., clear out to the Delaware county line, in what is yet a comparative open part of the city, is not more marked than that beyond it. In addition to the many separate country seats scattered at random in the vicinity of the road, just note

the numerous towns and villages that have sprung into existence and which are showing such rapid growth. Taking the census of 1880 as a basis, and estimating the probable increase since then, I place the population along the road or that which patronize it at not less than 15,000, or nearly 1500 to the mile from Media to the city line. As a large percentage of the adult population is employed in the city, and as it is the great shopping center, the immense amount of travel can easily be explained.

Media is made the terminus of the comparison because the heavy amount of travel is between it and the city. The greater portion of that beyond passes over the Baltimore Central, but it is quite small when compared with that from and east of Media. The growth of the county seat



CHARTER HOUSE.

has not been as rapid as that of some newly built places, but it has been of such a substantial character as to ensure its continuance and to establish its future. It has not been pushed by capitalists but has grown on its own merits. Indeed its increase in population has been materially retarded by discouraging manufacturing plants within its limits, preferring to have it a borough of homes away from the bustle of industries, where country life with city conveniences could be enjoyed. The result of this policy has been to make it a town of substantial and handsome residences, and to gather in a population noted for its refinement, literary

and social qualities—in a word to make it a desirable place for domestic and local comfort.

It is a borough of homes with home comforts and at the same time as devoid of those discomforts that are found in many suburban places. Its merits have never been properly advertised, and hence many of those seeking residences pass us by, simply because we have not invited them to stop and see us. It is said that "good wine needs no bush," which was very true at the time the statement was made, but in these days of advertising, self laudation and syndicating, the bush becomes a thing of necessity. In one respect Media needs no recommendation, no horn blowing, no certificate, of character, because its natural and other advantages recommend it. To those who know it, these are sufficient, but to



RESIDENCE OF ISAAC L. MILLER.

those who know it not, it needs an introduction, so that those who pass by may judge of its merits. That is the way to conduct business on business principles in this age of push and competition.

The progress and prosperity of Media is, in some respects, phenomenal. Its increase during the last decade has not only been large but it is composed of the best material, and its society has a solidity and respectability that makes it the peer of any place in the State. People locate here because it offers so many inducements, and they come to stay. But few leave it, the tide constantly flows inward, and that is why we now

have a population of nearly three thousand. It frequently happens that families which come here to spend the summer months become so attached to the place that they make it a permanent residence, and they find that in addition to its desirability as a summer resort, it is a pleasant place all the year round. In a word, it has winning ways. For that reason, Media is growing on its own merits more rapidly than other suburban places which are forced into public notice with all the devices known to real estate agents and speculators. If modesty is a merit, Media has a good claim for first honors.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. NATHAN BROOKE.

There are many reasons why Media has grown into a borough of three thousand inhabitants with substantial, handsome and many elegant residences. In the first place, the land in the most populous part of the town was purchased in lots by those who desired to improve them, and thus from the beginning it has been a borough of homes. I will venture the assertion that there is not a town in the State where as large a proportion of the citizens own the houses in which they live. People have made Media their residence because they liked it, and having done so they did not trouble themselves about others coming, but left that to the same

quiet choice they manifested. They did not come to build a town, but to erect a home, and hence the place has grown, not by an organized effort, not by a syndicate of speculators, but by the steady and silent drift of those seeking a desirable location. In that way it is a place of units, each making it his individual selection, and the majority building according to their tastes or their ability. Or to put it another way, the town did not go through the country with a brass band to drum up a population of recruits, but it sat down and waited for the people to come and make it.



RESIDENCE OF HON. THOMAS V. COOPER.

And they came, three thousand strong—no draft—no bounty—all volunteers.

Media has had no boom, no tidal wave to float it into the haven of prosperity. While other places less favored have been boosted by corporations and rich land holders, we have paddled our own canoes, and kept abreast of them with our own oars. There has been no hot-bed, forcing process, but a steady, natural growth, strong and steady and rapid. We have no railroad influence to give us special privileges, as has been the case with other places, no outside aid to paint our beauty or

picture our place, but we have built on the foundation of self-reliance, and the prosperity of the place shows we have built well.

Successful as Media has been in the past, its present status points unmistakably to an increased prosperity in the future. The inducements offered to those already here are still greater for those who are to come. We have passed through the incipient stages of borough life, have removed the discomforts attending the formation of a new town, so that whoever now erects a home in our midst will have pleasant and comfortable surroundings.

There are few if any places as near Philadelphia that offer as many inducements for people to locate there as Media. Its proximity to the city, by means of railroad facilities makes it a suburb of that great center, and the business man who resides here is nearer in point of time to his office or place of labor than thousands are who reside within the city limits. He can reach his home in Media from Broad street station in less time than he can the station of the cable line in West Philadelphia, and at a cost of about two-thirds of a cent a mile, or for about the same fare charged for an exchange ticket on the street car lines. The cost of travel does not therefore enter into the question, and neither does that of time. Even if they did they would be nothing compared with the advantages in point of comfort and health. It is picturesque as it overlooks a grand circuit of country reaching from the Delaware river to the highlands six miles to the north, and it presents a landscape of woods, waters, lakes and valleys, rolling in beautiful convolutions and covered with building sites, its air is pure and invigorating; its water, of which it has a bountiful supply brought to the homes of the people is noted for its purity; its drainage is excellent as it crowns an extensive slope. As I have already stated, nature has given Media a share of its good things, and this, seconded by the progressive spirit of our citizens has made it a most desirable place to reside. This is why property has appreciated, why there is a continual accession of handsome new buildings, and why the place and its captivating surroundings are being planted with beautiful residences.

Speaking of the surroundings of the borough they are certainly most enjoyable and attractive for country residences. Within a short distance of Media station, outside of the borough limits there are many desirable building sites, some of which within the area of a few acres contain hill and vale, wood and lawn, and a stream of water. To those who have the means these spots offer special inducements, and some of them have already been selected. Besides the constantly increasing value of property makes the investment a good one even as a speculation. Property has doubled and quadrupled in value within the last decade, in some parts of the town and its surroundings, while the substantial improvements being made continue to add to its value, and yet, considering the aggregation of





PLACES OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.



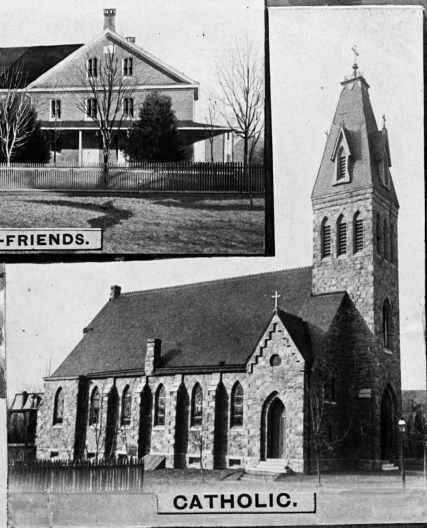
BAPTIST.



ORTHODOX-FRIENDS.



FRIENDS.



CATHOLIC.



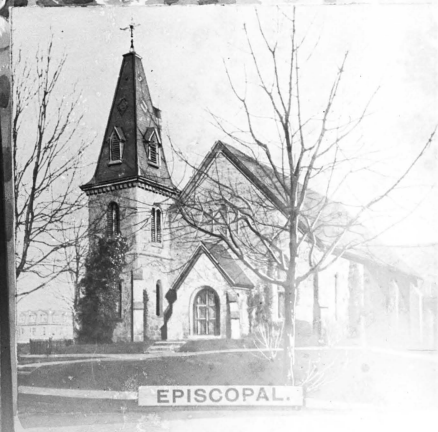
METHODIST.



PRESBYTERIAN.



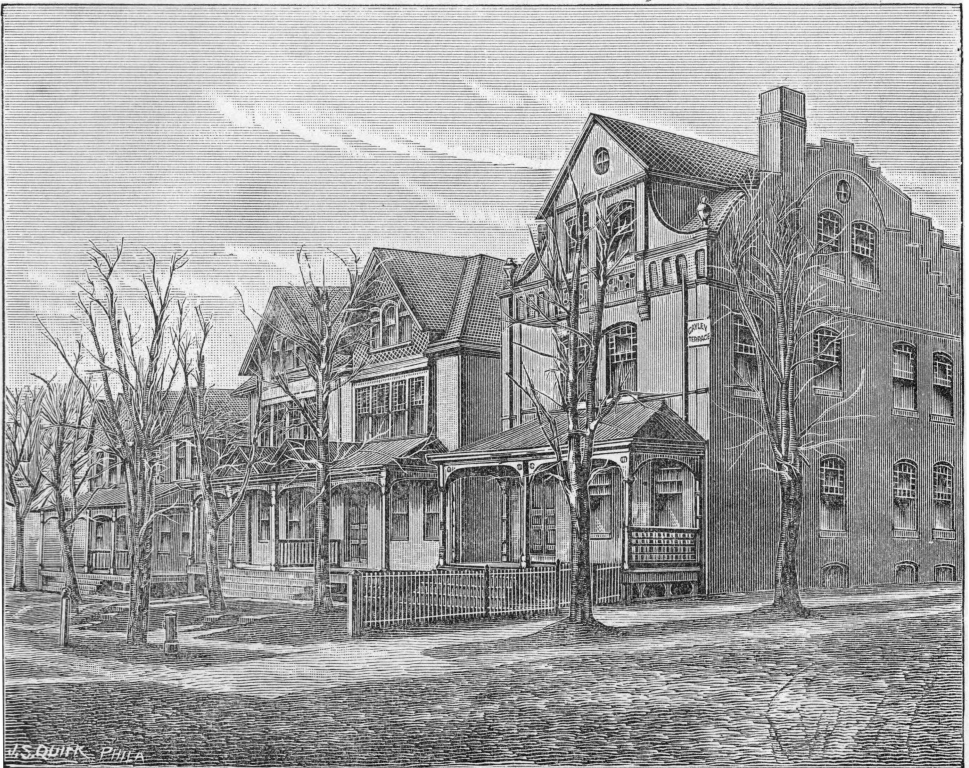
AFRICAN-METHODIST.



EPISCOPAL.

advantages there is no place in the vicinity of Philadelphia where so much can be had for the same expenditure of money.

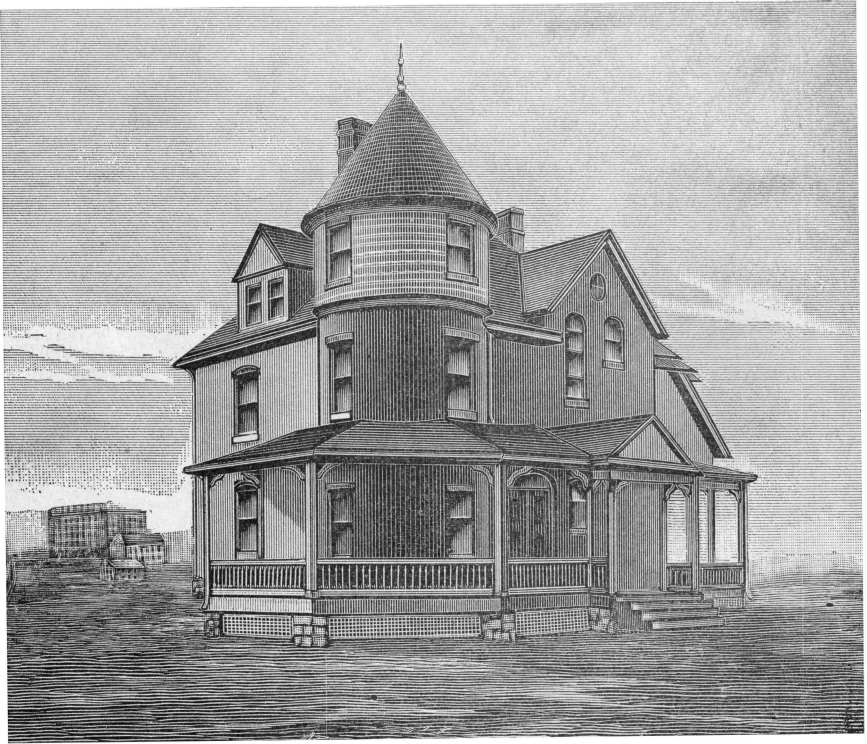
A glance at the borough as it now is, with its good buildings, its shady streets, its lawns and parterres, attracts the visitor and shows him the condition and culture of its people. As the mass of its people own their homes, they vie with each other to make them and their surroundings attractive, and at the same time to add to the beauty and conveniences of the place. And hence, year after year houses already erected have



**CAPT. RALPH BUCKLEY'S GAYLEY TERRACE.**

been given new adornments, and new dwellings have sprung up on the vacant lots, until population is gradually selecting spots in the suburbs which teem with desirable buildings sites. I do not believe there is a town in the State surrounded with more entrancing scenery, or presenting more desirable locations for building. Media now offers greater inducements for people to locate there than it ever has before. The people already here have supplied much for those who may come. Its Charter, making it a temperance town, is in its favor. Excellent as our train

service is at present, it will be still better in the near future, as the double track now extending to Swarthmore will be laid to Media during the present season. This will remove the objection raised by some to locating here, because there is only a single track, and at the same time will bring us oftener and nearer to the great city. In this respect it will be second to no place equi-distant from Philadelphia and no doubt the improvement will lead to swell our resident population. I might say right here, that this is already apparent, and that investments have been made in antici-



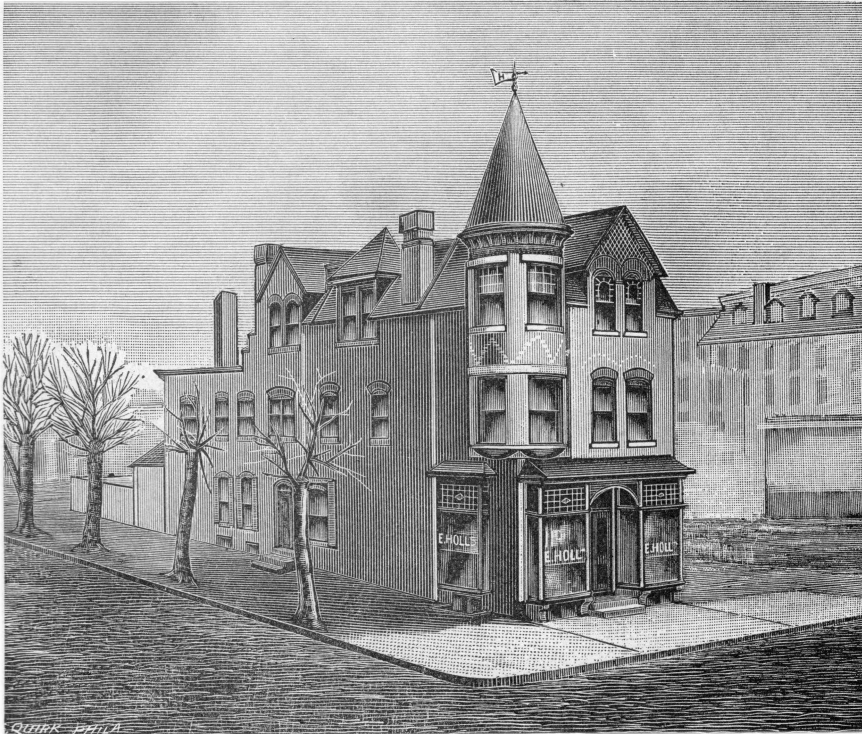
**RISLEY, BAKER AND MAJOR'S WEST COTTAGE.**

pation of that event. There is no place in the State that has better water, nor a more copious supply. The present plant is sufficient to meet all the demands for the next half century, and we are now not only furnishing the borough with an abundance of that beverage, but quenching the thirst of a neighboring viliage with the surplus. We have a gas plant capable of meeting all demands that may be made on it, and our streets are well-lighted. In addition to this, an enterprise is now on foot that will soon give us electric lights beyond all peradventure, when our people can choose between the illuminants.



As regards good location, good water, good air, good lights, frequent and rapid transportation to and from the city, we are the peer of all the suburban towns.

The advance in the value of property has been steady and rapid, and the present figures are high when compared with twenty years ago, but they have not advanced as rapidly as improvements and population have and I will venture the statement that there is on town of equal population, importance, natural and other advantages, and with such excellent railroad service, within the same radius of



**E. HOLL'S JEWELRY STORE.**

which Philadelphia is the center, where property is as low. Or to put it in another shape, I know of no place where you can get as much for your money in real estate as in the borough of Media, and its immediate vicinity. As the prices are constantly appreciating and will continue to do so as long as the place keeps up its growth and vigor, there is not the shadow of a risk in purchasing at the ruling prices. And that is why there is a constant demand for lots, and a continual addition of substantial improvements.

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In this pen picture of the county seat there are no flights of fancy or exaggeration of facts. Let those who know the place pass upon it. All we ask is for those desiring to locate to come and look at us as we are. We have no clap trap testimonials manufactured to order, to lure you, no grasping syndicates ready to fleece you, no promises of what we will be. We are willing to be seen as we are, and leave those who would come amongst us be the judges of our future. If you like the place we will be happy to have you, if not we are willing you should locate where you think you can do better. This is fair, and that has been our policy.



CAPT. RALPH BUCKLEY'S NO. 5, GAYLEY TERRACE.

That visitors do like the place is shown by the number who are settling here. The present season promises to be a prosperous one for the place. There is a ready sale for building sites, and already about forty buildings are under contract. This is unprecedented at this early season, and it is safe to say that half a hundred houses will be added to the town before the coming winter. Never in its history has there been as much building at this season and the cry is still they come. One thing



is certain it will continue to grow in population and in beauty and will maintain its title of the Borough of Homes.

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THE FOLLOWING GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE BOROUGH WAS WRITTEN  
BY STEELE PENNE FOR "THE DELAWARE COUNTY AMERICAN,"  
AND WAS PUBLISHED IN THAT PAPER.

"There isn't a prettier little town in the State," said a friend of mine from Philadelphia, after we had a hasty jaunt over it, and stood on the basin to take in the borough at a glance. And he was right. The Medes do not fully appreciate the beauty of the place because they behold it daily, and what to visitors is new and fascinating becomes common place to them. When we visit other places we naturally compare them with our own, and then we more fully give Media its full measure of praise. But I fully appreciate the remark of my companion, as we stood side by side on the terrace of the reservoir and looked down into the town, dressed in the beautiful garniture of May, and nestled in a couch of green foliage and partly colored blossoms. Only a week since, and the borough showed its red walls and dark roofs plainly through the leafless trees, but now it was half hidden in the drapery of spring, and it seemed, when viewed from the distance, as though it had in a night, arisen in the midst of a grove, the instant work of the genius, not the slow and plodding work of toiling men. Media is yet in the freshness of youth and like a maiden in her teens, it is the embodiment of vigor and beauty.

I do not intend to give a fulsome picture of our county seat such as real estate agents or speculators might paint for their own selfish purposes, but I feel that our town is worthy of a passing notice, showing it as it is, and and at the same time forecasting its probable future. When the County Commissioners selected the location for the new county town, they made no mistake in locating it amidst the old orchards of Upper Providence, where it would not only be the geographical centre of the county, but where nature had provided all that is desirable for an embryo city. It is no wonder that the Medes have a pride for their town—no wonder that the people outside are attracted to it—no wonder that they come to stay—and no wonder that it has doubled its population in a decade. It is almost impossible to realize that land which 50 years ago sold for eighteen dollars an acre now brings that much per foot, with a more ready sale at the latter figure. Nature and art have entered into a syndicate which has made this wonderful transformation.

I say this of Media because it is the fact, without gloss, glitter, or exaggeration. I have no interest in painting the place in flaming colors. I am not a real estate agent, have no town lots for sale, nor any pecuniary interest in writing this hasty notice of Delaware County's beauty spot,

But when a hundred other places are being brought prominently to public notice in order that population may be attracted thither, I thought our town deserved to have a kind and truthful word said of it, and as I like to say pleasant things when they are deserved, I have taken this opportunity to praise the grand little borough of which I have been a citizen for thirty years, and whose constant and solid growth I have watched during that period. Its advancement has always been positive and every increase in the value of property has not only been sustained, but



RESIDENCE OF THOMAS R. VERNON.

has been followed by a still further advancement. It has not been subject to the relapses that occur in most new places, but on the contrary, it has pursued the even tenor of its way in its prosperous career.

This healthy drift was in the beginning, the result of a wise policy pursued by the original settlers. They saw its present advantages and its future opportunities, and through wise legislation and a careful exercise of municipal power, they paved the way for a place such as is now seen on this beautiful May morning, and some of those who were the pioneers in the movement still live to see their success. I may mention H. Jones Brooke, who owned a large tract within the borough limits, Isaac Halde-  
man, C. R. Williamson, John C. Beatty and others. These gentlemen

with a few others, both as private individuals and as public officers, did good work for the new borough, and its present standard is a monument to their wisdom and energy. The leading spirits saw the future. As the farmer scatters the seed, believing that the harvest will follow, so did they make provisions for what they believed would come. They mapped out a plan with its squares and streets, and alleys, and grades, then established a water system and laid the mains in advance of the town, and in many ways they anticipated the needs of those who were to make their homes with us. I make this mention because we owe them more than a kind notice for what we now enjoy.

So much for retrospect, now let us glance at the secured present and the promised future of Media. It has already grown large and strong enough to take care of itself. It has long since passed the limits of a possible failure. It has in its weakest times overcome all the obstacles incident to a new place, and now it is only a question as to how rapidly it will progress. With each succeeding year it has continued to offer greater inducements for people to reside here, and the steady and rapid increase in buildings and population show beyond all peradventure that they are known and appreciated. It is safe to say that there is not a borough in the State where the buildings are so uniformly good and substantial as those in Media, or to put it in another way where there are as few inferior dwellings. This is partly owing to the ordinance specifying the kind to be erected within certain limits, and partly because the class of population coming here are well to do people who will have all the conveniences of modern structures. Nine-tenths of the buildings that have been erected here during the last ten years are first-class, as a glance over the place will attest. A great majority of those who come here to reside are either people with sufficient means to support them, or men in thrifty business with good incomes, who either build or buy first-class dwellings, and so great has been the demand for them that those erected by our enterprising citizens have found a ready sale at good prices. Empty houses are a curiosity in Media, and the amount of building in progress is perhaps greater than in any town of its size in this portion of the State.

This constant influx of population and demand for building lots and houses has appreciated the value of property very rapidly, and lots which a few years ago were offered at a low figure, because they were outside of the built up portion of the town, have been purchased at largely increased valuations and are now studded with handsome residences. This rapid increase in valuation led some to fear that it was the result of speculation, and that they would recede, but experience has proven it to be legitimate, and also that it is a safe investment to purchase property

anywhere within the borough limits at its present market value. Compared with some towns of the same size, real estate appears to be high in Media, but when we take into consideration the character of the place, its natural and other advantages, its communication with the city, and the constantly increasing value of property, it is quite as cheap as in any other desirable locality. I know of no safer nor more remunerative investment than that of real estate in the borough of Media, nor can I recall an instance where it has been a losing operation. A place so favorably located and possessing so many advantages naturally invites those

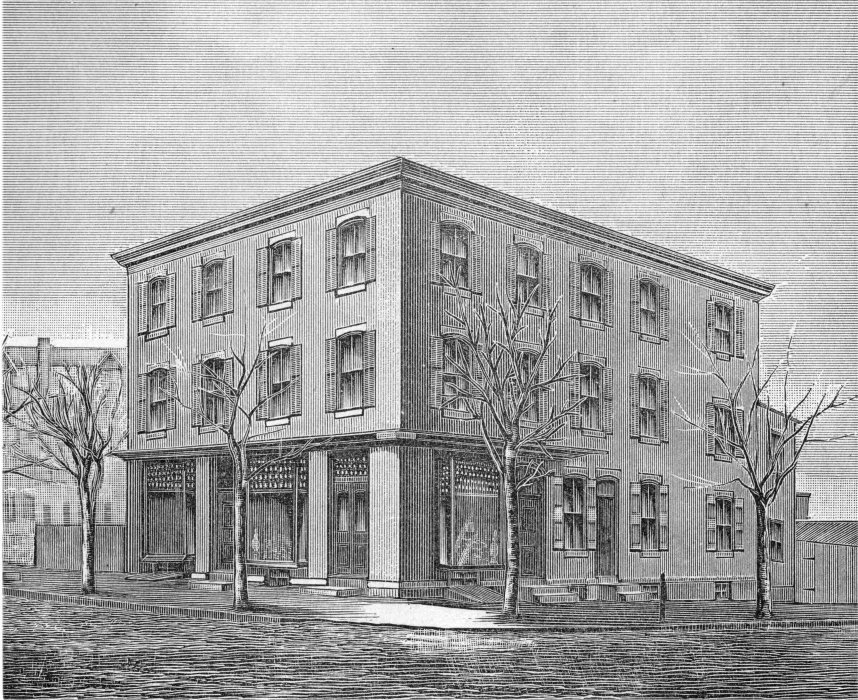


CAPT. RALPH BUCKLEY'S PLUMBING ESTABLISHMENT.

retiring from active life in the surrounding country to come here, while at the same time it brings the business men of Philadelphia to a place where they can have a desirable winter and summer residence under the same roof. It is such a charming spot in summer, that hundreds pass the heated season here, and many of them become so captivated with the place that they are induced to make a permanent home. Indeed Media may be called the borough of homes, and the most of its people own the buildings in which they reside.

A word just now concerning its advantages as a place to live. It is

situated on a high healthful spot, in the midst of a beautifully undulating country, hundreds of feet above the miasmatic lands of the Delaware which ebbs and flows five miles to the southward, has excellent water in never failing quantity, good surface drainage, and in summer its streets lined with trees give it a canopy of refreshing coolness and shadow. The large lawn surrounding the Court House is a cosy breathing place for old and young, and when our Commissioners lay it out in walks and provide it with public fountains as they should, it will be a most delightful resort.



W. E. DICKESON'S DRUG STORE.

It is supplied with most excellent schools, both public and private, Prof. Shortlidge's Academy for boys and Miss Eastman's Institute for girls having a wide notoriety. It is supplied with churches of all leading denominations, with almost seating capacity to hold the entire population; it has two newspapers, stores of all kinds, two first-class livery stables—in short all the necessities and luxuries of the times. For those who have their business in Philadelphia it presents first-class inducements, and many of our people are engaged in the city. In point of proximity we are nearer the business centre of the city than those who live in its extremes. It is only twenty-five minutes from Media to Broad Street

Station, and twenty-five trains daily give opportunities for going at such hours as may best suit business. It seems strange that a lady of Media desiring to visit John Wanamaker's store can be there in at least fifteen minutes less time than one living in the upper and western wards of the city, but such is the fact, and the price at which commutation tickets are sold brings the passage below a dime for the trip. The double track now being laid will still more increase our traveling facilities and lessen the time of transit. Our people are thus offered facilities for business amusements, lectures or other attractions in Philadelphia equal to those who reside there, thus giving them the double advantage of city and country life. No wonder Media is growing.

Media invites all good people through its many advantages. We have good location, excellent facilities of travel, good water, gas, society, and through the public spirit of those who are causing houses to grow on our vacant lots, we will have room and a hearty welcome for all. For those who wish to locate in a town possessing rare and bountiful facilities, Media offers superior inducements, and we invite outsiders to come and look it over, and see if I have in the least misrepresented or exaggerated.



## MEDIA AND ITS ENVIRONS.

BY MISS GRACEANNA LEWIS.

**B**ETWEEN two streams which take their rise in the South Valley Hills of Chester county lies the town of Media. Crum Creek on the east, and Ridley on the west, are shaded by wooded banks almost from their rise to their mouths in the Delaware River. In the intervening districts are many tracts of woodland dispersed over the swelling hills of a diversified country, where cultivated fields alternate with forests, forming pictures upon which the eye loves to dwell.

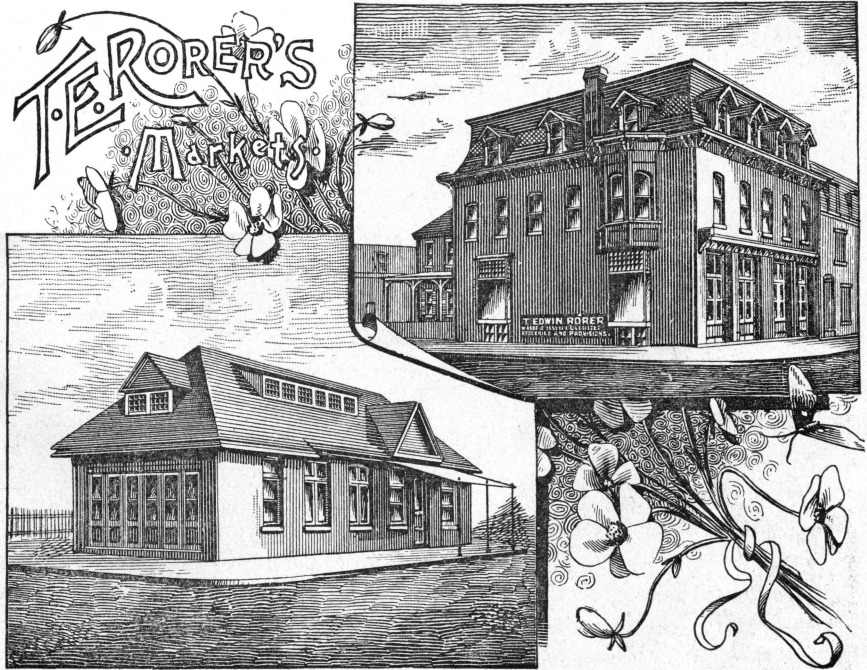
Media itself is a town of trees. In all directions except eastward, it is environed by forests. Within the borough limits, there are probably more trees than inhabitants, counting not only those planted for shade, but those whose seeds have been distributed by nature. Probably none remain of the original growth of two hundred years ago, but these forests are the seedlings of the trees which greeted our ancestors when they sought religious liberty in the woods of Penn. We, the descendants of a sylvan people, are yet enabled, in a few minutes, to pass from the wearing activities of daily life, to the restful quietude of overarching woods. Even women and children, with slight ability for walking long distances, may follow almost any one of the streets of Media to its termination,



and reach a spot where, in the proper season, may be found wild flowers, mosses and ferns, never disturbed by cultivation.

Within the borough limits, the principal owners of woodland are Hon. J. M. Broomall, Dr. Joseph Rowland, Albert Lewis, the proprietors of the Brooke estate, Mrs. Hæckley of Chestnut Grove, and Miss Eastman of Brooke Hall.

Whilst much of this woodland is continuous with forest lands outside of the borough limits it is estimated that only about forty acres yet remain within. The lovely woods of Idlewild, in the near southern view,



T. E. RORER'S STORES.

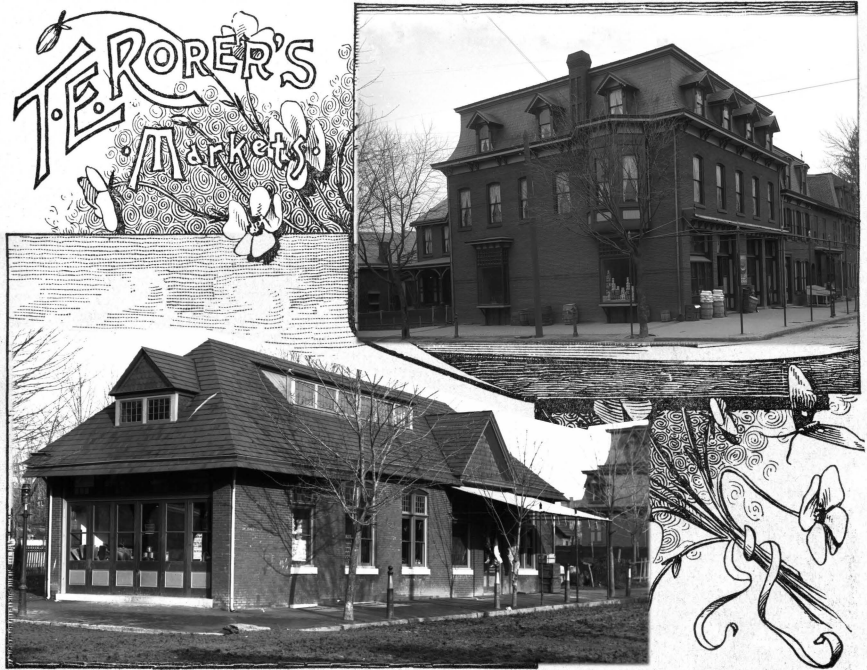
are just beyond, as is also the larger portion of the valuable grounds formerly belonging to Dr. Dale. These help to enhance the beauty of the town fully as much as though they formed an actual part of it. The same may be said of the adjoining woods, and especially of that part of it through which passes the Southern Extension of Orange street, where generous and handsome residences are built in the shade of unfelled forest trees.

Almost continuous with those of Media, are the wooded slopes of Elwyn, a mile or more distant, beyond which, slope after slope fades into the blue distance. These, in the evening, contrast with the richness of sunset skies, and it must be a pleasure to every philanthropic heart to

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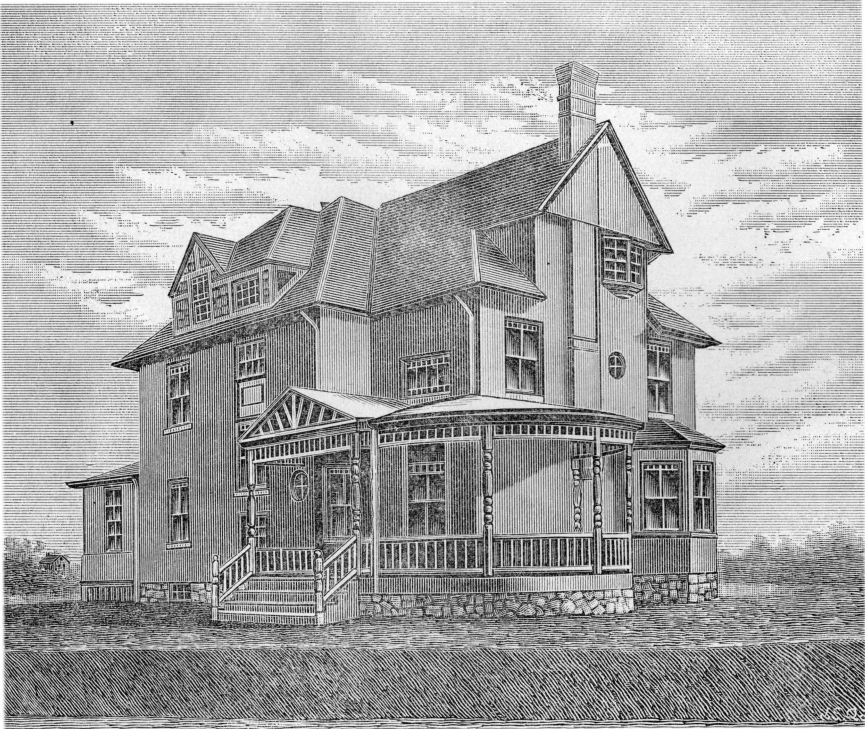
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know that amid such lovely surroundings, one group of buildings, visible from Media, belongs to the Pennsylvania Training School for the Feeble-minded.

Ascending to a sufficient elevation to gain a wide horizon, Swarthmore, three miles to the eastward, and Chester five miles to the southward might become visible. With nearly the same radius would be found Morton and Clifton to the eastward; Lima, Lenni and Glen Riddle to the west and southwest; and Howellville towards the north, with numerous other villages not needful to mention.



**RISLEY, BAKER AND MAJOR'S EAST COTTAGE.**

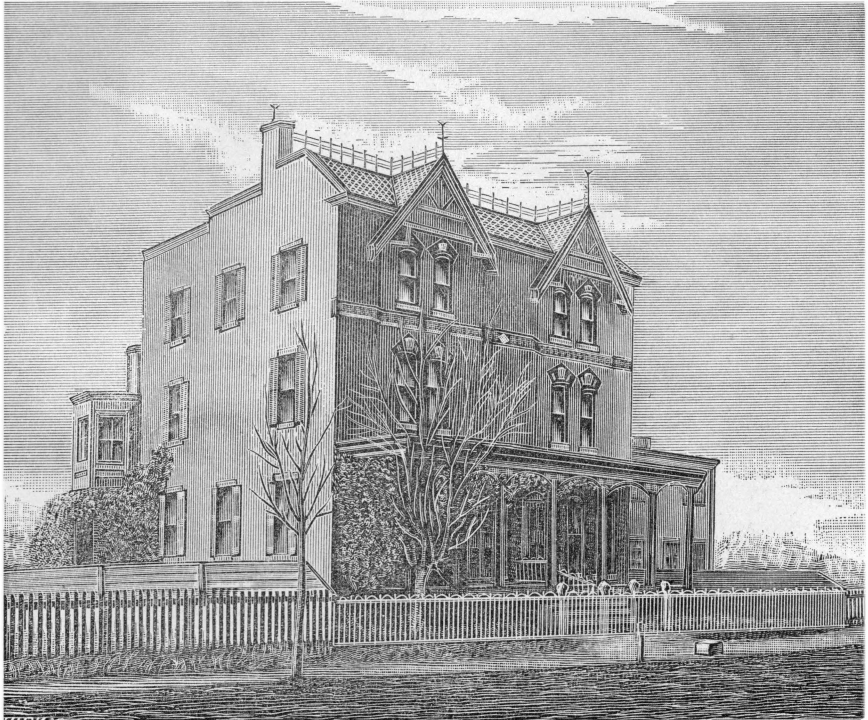
In addition to the uncleared forest land, such an extended view would afford many examples of noble and symmetrically developed trees which have been permitted to remain for grateful shade in fields or fence rows; or which have been planted around dwellings, the general aspect being that of a remarkably well-wooded region.

**FERNS, MOSSES AND FLOWERS.**

The Schistose soil, with, occasionally, overlying deposits of gravel, along with abundant moisture and shade, afford the conditions favorable

to a luxuriant growth of Ferns. Delaware County has long been appreciated by botanists as an admirable field for the study of this class of plants. All the genera of the Ferns of the Northern United States, are, with few exceptions, represented here. Those absent are mainly northern, or local. Considerably over one hundred species of mosses are found in Delaware County, with other interesting Cryptogams.

In particular situations, well known to the lovers of this beautiful and fragrant flower, the Trailing Arbutus is found in the early spring-time.



CAPT. RALPH BUCKLEY'S STATE STREET COTTAGES.

The wild flowers common every where, do not fail us. Blood-roots, Hepaticas, Anemonies, Violets, Spring-beauties offer themselves for the gathering. The dear little Bluets, beloved of children, old and young, smile up to us from grassy meadows. On steep hill sides, come later, the Azaleas and Kalmias, with their companions of May and June. The Orchids, in their season, are found from May to October. The Gentians afford us their matchless blue, and the Cardinal Flower, its equally matchless crimson. In the Autumn comes a wealth of Golden Rod and Aster to gather with the crimson leaves of oaks and maples. The white Forget-me-not (*Euphorbia Corollata*), sold at nurseries at 25 cts. a root,

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springs here unbidden. As an indication of the species which may be gathered in one location, we give the following list of plants brought home by Dr. L. Fussell on the 25th of Sept. 1888, although no effort was made to obtain all in bloom at the time.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <i>Asclepias Verticillata.</i>             | 9. <i>Gentiana crinita</i> :—Fringed Gentian.      |
| 2. <i>Aster grandiflora.</i>                  | 10. <i>Spiranthes graminea.</i>                    |
| 3. <i>Buchneria Americana</i> :—Blue Hearts.  | 11. " <i>gracilis.</i>                             |
| 4. <i>Cassia Chamæcritsa</i> :—Partridge Pea. | 12. <i>Stylosanthes elatior</i> :—Pencil—flower.   |
| 5. <i>Gerardia tenuifolia.</i>                | 13. <i>Tephrosia Virginiana</i> :—Hoary Pea.       |
| 6. " <i>purpurea.</i>                         | 14. <i>Lechia</i> , in Fruit.                      |
| 7. " <i>pedicularia.</i>                      | 15. <i>Corylus Americana</i> :—Hazelnut, in fruit. |
| 8. "  |  |



CAREY & BROTHER'S PLUMBING ESTABLISHMENT.

On the 27th of the same month a visit was made by the writer, to a small wood on Orange street, adjoining the handsomest dwelling located there. The object was not botanical search, but the amusement of a six-year old child. The flowers brought home were

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. <i>Aster undulatus.</i>      | 9. " <i>capita.</i>                        |
| 2. " <i>corymbosus.</i>         | 10. <i>Lobelia inflata.</i>                |
| 3. " <i>prenanthoides.</i>      | 11. <i>Solidago nemorosa.</i>              |
| 4. " <i>miser.</i>              | 12. " <i>bicolor</i> var. <i>Concolor.</i> |
| 5. " <i>Ericoides.</i>          | 13. <i>Gerardia purpurea.</i>              |
| 6. <i>Desmodium nudiflorum.</i> | 15. " <i>pedicularia.</i>                  |
| 7. <i>Hieracium venosum.</i>    | 15. <i>Smilax tamnoides</i> (in leaf.)     |
| 8. <i>Lespedeza pens.</i>       |  |



A previous visit in July, had abundantly satisfied the same child with the treasures found, although that month is too late for the spring, and too early for the autumnal flowers.

Species belonging further south are occasionally seen here. This was the case for two successive seasons, with *Penstemon Digitalis*, which is rarely found north of Virginia although instances are not unknown of its collection near Philadelphia. This plant appeared on ground now covered by the most southern of the Brooke houses on South Avenue. A specimen of it was placed in the Herbarium of the Delaware County Institute of Science.

#### TREES COMMON IN OUR FORESTS.

These are the wild Cherries, Red Maple, Tulip-poplar, Sour-Gum, Sassafras, the different species of Ashes and Elms, The Mulberries, the Buttonwood, Sycamore or American Plane Tree; the White and Black Walnut; several species of Hickory; many species and varieties of Oaks; the Chestnut, Beech and Iron-wood, and the different species of Birches, Poplars and Willow. Of Conifers, the most common are Hemlock Spruce along the borders of streams, and Red Cedar on the upland.

A large body of Serpentine exists in Middletown, extending through Upper Providence, and across the north-western edge of Marple Township. The Black Jack (*Quercus nigra*.) accompanies the Serpentine Barrens, but does not appear in any other portion of Delaware County. This small oak is found at Elwyn but not at Media. At Elwyn, it modifies the seedlings of other Oaks and some curious admixtures are to be found.

The Dwarf Chestnut or Chinquapin Oak, *Quercus prinoides* and the Bear or Black Scrub Oak, *Q. ilicifolia* are also found on the Serpentine of Marple Township.

Along the margin of the Delaware River is a deposit of River Mud. Next to this is a broad belt of Gravel and Brick Clay, extending across the country from Upper Darby to Upper Chichester. Within this belt may be found the Willow Oak, *Q. Phellos*, the Spanish Oak, *Q. falcata*, and the Sweet Gum, *Liquid amber styraciflua*. The Spanish Oak may be seen on the road from Media to Chester, and the Sweet Gum in several places along the Philadelphia and West Chester R. R.

All the above named species will grow if transplanted in other soils, but they appear to be indigenous to the belt above mentioned and to soils similar to this.

The White Oak, *Quercus alba*; the Rock Chestnut Oak, *Q. Prinus*, var. *monticola*; the Black Oak, *Q. Coccinea*, var. *tinctoria*; the Red-oak, *Q. rubra*, and the Pin-oak, *Q. palustris*, are the most abundant species in the forest around Media. The Post oak, *Q. obtusiloba* is quite frequent. Nearly



BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF MEDIA—FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

all species of oaks show forms which are not sufficiently distinct to be considered as varieties, but the different forms exist, and present a fair field for study, observation and comparison.

In ornamental grounds may be found the usual varieties, both of ever-green and deciduous trees, to be obtained at nurseries. A decided preference is now manifesting itself for our native trees, as better adapted to the soil and situation.



**BURDSALL AND ADAMS' BLOCK.**

In botanical studies, John Bartram, a native of Delaware County, but long a resident of Philadelphia, was an early and distinguished leader. As his worthy successors, might be named John Evans, and Dr. George Smith of Delaware County; and William Darlington, M. D. and Joshua Hoopes of Chester County. These, and a number of scarcely less distinguished associates, left their impress on the counties they repre-

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sented, not only by the trees planted half a century ago, but by the tendencies towards botanical studies which they inspired. They created a permanent influence of incalculable value, to be estimated, not alone by the visible elegance of home surroundings, but by the inherited tastes of leading citizens in these and adjoining counties. The mercantile value of the Nursery Business is, no doubt, largely indebted to those who studied from a pure love of nature and of scientific truth, and who never counted loss and gain in dollars and cents, but in the advancement of knowledge.



F. M. & H. BROOKE'S COTTAGES ON SOUTH AVENUE.

In the Court House Square of Media are many trees, the selection and gift of John Evans. They are the Turkey and Bur Oaks; *Paulownia imperialis*, *Kælruteria paniculata*, Elms, Ashes, Lindens, Sweet Gum, Magnolias, Horse Chestnuts, Maples, Beeches and Birches in variety; with Larches, White Pine, Norway Spruce, Balsam Fir and other Conifers; and Shrubbery in choice varieties. It is a place to be guarded with reverend care as the offering of one who was the friend and fellow student of botanists whom Delawarians delight to honor. Many Bur, and Turkey Oaks, originally from John Evans, are distributed through Delaware County.



At the school of Swithin Shortlidge, there is a Pecan-nut in bearing condition. It is a tree related to the Shell-bark Hickory, and is probably fifty or sixty years old. In addition to this, there is a group or remarkably fine old Ashes.

Providence Friends' Meeting House is well shaded with Maples, Tulip-poplar and Buttonwood trees. They are however to be noted neither for size or age. The largest, loftiest, and most healthful sycamore trees known to the writer, are growing in moist iron ore soil, in Chester County.



MISS EASTMAN'S COTTAGE.

They are over one hundred years of age, and have never shown signs of disease.

The finest White Oak in Media, is without doubt, that on the grounds of Daniel G. Brinton, M. D. on Washington Street. This is a remarkably fine, stately tree.

A moderate sized, but finely developed Red Oak, stands in the yard of Mr. Marshall, corner of Jackson and Jefferson streets.

On the grounds of the old Dale mansion, is a remarkably lofty Red-oak, with three main trunks, each one of which is larger than the average



Red-oaks of our woods. It is a magnificent tree, and looks as though it might have grown from the stump of a tree which had been felled at least a century ago.

There are some remarkably fine Rock Chestnut Oaks in this region; and also some very tall Pin-oaks growing on the border of a little stream. Whilst the acorns are indisputably those of the Pin-oak, the height and manner of growth are unusual.

Although at the present time, Media is so well supplied with trees, it



**BROOKE COTTAGES ON WASHINGTON STREET.**

should be remembered that this is a rapidly growing town, and, that unless special provision is made to prevent it, the proportion of trees to the inhabitants must inevitably fall below sanitary requirements. While it is yet possible to procure land for the purpose, the Borough Councils will, without doubt, admit the importance of securing Public Squares, which persons now living shall be enabled to plant for their descendants. In this manner we may contribute our due share towards the public wel-

fare, and also be enabled to repay to the future our indebtedness to the past.

#### BIRDS AND SQUIRRELS.

Birds and squirrels belong to the woods and may be fitly considered with them. Of squirrels, no species can be said to be abundant except the small striped Ground Squirrel or Chipmunk; the Red Squirrel; and the Flying squirrel. The Gray-squirrel multiplies in security in the woods of Elwyn under the kindly influences predominant there. This squirrel



RESIDENCE OF J. H. FRONFIELD, M. D.

occasionally makes its way to the adjoining woods, and is sometimes seen in Media, much to the delight of the children whose homes it visits; but in cultivated districts, the Gray-squirrel may be said to be nearing its extinction, if not in many places already extinct.

Of birds, the distinguished Ornithologist, John Cassin, assigned to his native county of Delaware, 243 species. B. H. Warren, of West Chester, State Ornithologist, enumerates 310 species belonging to the whole State of Pennsylvania. Several of this number, in addition to those formerly known, have been discovered to be either rare, or occasional visitors to Delaware County.

There are few clear days, especially in summer and autumn, when, soaring in wide circles, the common vulture or turkey buzzard may not be seen in the blue air above. This is a species of which it may be said with truth that "Distance lends enchantment to the view." Its well-sustained flight is superb. Except for scientific purposes, few care to make a nearer acquaintance.

Crows never forsake us for other lands. At this season, they fly over Media to the south-west in the morning, to reach their feeding grounds, and to the north-west in the evening, returning to their roosts. The Jay, essentially a wood loving bird, remains with us all the year. I once knew a small flock of about a dozen to come regularly during the winter to roost in the Wistaria which covered a quiet country dwelling. Jays find a congenial home at Elwyn, and are frequently seen in the vicinity of Media, notwithstanding much comment on their scarcity as compared with former times.

Robins and Cardinal birds remain with us in small numbers. I have even seen the Robin in flocks of 30 or more in midwinter, but have never chanced to see over half a dozen cardinals together. Imagine falling snow—the swift motion of sleighing,—the sound of jingling bells,—a group of snow covered hemlocks, and the swift rush of these birds from their hiding places under the branches—five or six were enough. More would have been distracting. What would one do with the numbers one sometimes hears mentioned?

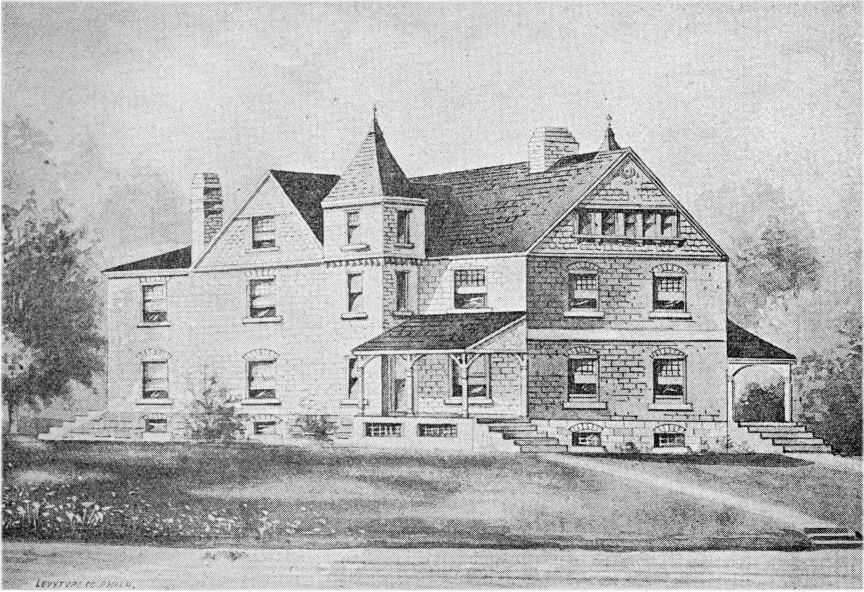
Blue-birds have been seen in Media every month of the year, Black-birds, Meadow-Larks, Orioles and their tuneful kindred come in their due order in the spring. The trees of our Court House Square constitute the nesting places of a number of species of songbirds. After a severe storm of wind and rain during the nesting season two or three years ago, over one hundred young birds were picked up dead from under these trees, and yet, without knowing of the destruction, they could not have been missed from the company of birdlings which remained. Such storms extending over wide regions of country, may however affect the the abundance or scarcity of birds, in comparing one season with another.

The Baltimore Oriole builds its nest on a willow on South Avenue near the business centre of Media. Vireos, Warblers and Yellow-Finches, choose the trees which they prefer, unhindered by the English sparrow, which is here as well as elsewhere.

The jubilant notes of the Wren, so welcome to all, reward those who properly accommodate the tiny singer. Even the mocking voice of the Carolina wren has been heard in dwellings near a wood, the bird itself entering an open window to hover over a stand of blooming plants. During the month of September, the Swifts may be watched in the evening, circling in wide sweeps, and dropping one by one into the chimney built against the church spire of the Episcopalian church on Orange street. These birds

congregate in this chimney previous to their southern migration, which may be deferred till October.

The Cat-Bird and Brown Thrush evidently prefer a country home to life in the town. Henry B. Fussell who lives about a mile northward from Media, and who owns the old Cassin Homestead, finds that his fruit retains the Brown Thrushes. An osage orange hedge, with its armament of thorns, forms a complete security for the nests of these and of many other species of singers. Charles G. Ogden, near Swarthmore, raises an



F. M. & H. BROOKE'S COTTAGES TO BE ERECTED THIS SEASON.

abundance of fruit and a correspondingly large number of Brown Thrushes. Many are regretting the absence of the sweet singers which charmed their youthful ears, but the remedy for the loss appears to be within our own control. A few thorny osage oranges here and there on the highways; berries allowed to grow where nature is constantly endeavoring to plant them; full water privileges, and unbroken lines of trees along our roadways, connecting one forest with another,—these are the conditions suggested by the experiences above mentioned. Where trees are continuous, even the most wood loving species, will venture without alarm. If we wish song birds, we must pay for them with fruit, and we could well afford to plant common black and bird cherries for this purpose alone.

In the Court House Square of Media; in the grove at Brooke Hall; in

Chestnut grove ; in the woods of Idlewild ; in the low meadows where violets bloom and the tinkling stream goes wandering by ; in dale and glen hidden from sight ; in Elwyn woods, and in a thousand other places of silence and shade, the song of the Wood Thrush may be heard, its sweet notes rising like a hymn above the daily life of the town or the country. Blessed are they whose ears are attuned to the choir of nature's songsters. Birds love Delaware county, and Delawarrians have long been known for their love of birds.



MEDIA RAILROAD STATION.

DELAWARE COUNTY INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND DELAWARE COUNTY  
FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.

In 1833 was organized, by five young men, The Delaware County Institute of Science. The founders of this institution were George Smith, M. D., John Cassin, Minshall Painter, George Miller and John Miller. During its continuance of over fifty years, the regular monthly meetings, on the first Saturday of each month, have never been suspended. How much good has been accomplished by the existence of this Association it is impossible to estimate. Its hall has always been open for the discussion of questions promising beneficent results, aside from those of religion and politics.



Excellent collections of shells and minerals invite the attention of preliminary students. The collections of insects, birds and mammals, requiring much care to prevent their destruction, need enriching by fresh specimens. For the beginner, the smaller county and private collections are usually of much more service than are the overwhelming numbers in collections from all parts of the world.

As is befitting the distinguished botanists of Delaware county, the herbarium of the Institute is especially good and interesting, containing many rare specimens.

An extensive and valuable library is, perhaps, the best possession the Institute has secured. Even the advanced students of some of the sciences, will find many unexpected requirements met in this library.

The Delaware County Forestry Association was organized in 1888, being the successor of a previously existing Media Forestry Association. It meets monthly, on the third Saturday of each month, during the winter, in the hall of the Institute of Sciences, and is about forming a library of forestry publications. Its purpose is a beneficent one; it occupies a field of usefulness, and it may yet have a career as extended, and an influence as salutary as that of its sister association, the Delaware County Institute of Science.



## MEDIA A HEALTHY LOCALITY.

BY S. D. RISLEY, M. D.

THERE are few problems in life which demand more careful consideration than the selection of a rural home. The one thing however of supreme importance is, that the locality chosen shall be a healthful one. Cultivated taste, and a love of the beautiful in nature, very naturally lead to the choice of a site, where this sense will be continually gratified by the surrounding landscape, the architectural beauty of the dwellings, the tasteful lawns, and well kept public roads; but however well situated, in the midst of the most charming environments, the most luxurious home, will fail to secure the contentment and happiness of the family, unless it is bathed at all seasons of the year in a salubrious atmosphere, is abundantly supplied with pure water, and is withal, reared upon foundations laid in a well drained soil.

Among the numerous delightful localities which render the vicinity of Philadelphia famous for its natural beauties, and charming country seats,

The Delaware County American.

VOLUME XXXIV, NO. 49,—WHOLE NO. 1785.

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FAC-SIMILE DELAWARE COUNTY AMERICAN.

lent water, and an atmosphere unquestionably free from miasmatic contamination. These natural advantages are secured by a rare combination



into hills and valleys by their innumerable tributaries, but for the most part, forming a well watered but thoroughly drained, undulating landscape, devoted to a well ordered agriculture. These creeks and their tributaries, are rapid current streams of soft water, flowing over stony beds, and are constantly fed by numerous springs which bubble up in their midst or flow into them from the surrounding hill sides. The observant traveler will be struck by the frequency of the branches and rivulets over which he must pass in driving through this beautiful section. Almost every farm is supplied by an abundant spring of water, which is first utilized for dairy purposes, and then flows from the commodious spring house, an unceasing stream, to join its fellows in the larger creeks. We are thus situated in a region the topographical features of which forbid the existence of



MANLEYS' PLUM STREET BLOCK.

those conditions, which favor the production of miasm. The prevailing winds in this belt of country are from the west and southwest and therefore come to us, after traveling many miles over this undulating, well drained region pure and untainted. Such an atmosphere as this is not fully prized except by those who have been driven from their piazzas at nightfall of a summer's day, by the knowledge that in the seductive coolness of the evening air lurked the subtle malarial poison. It is an untold luxury to all such to breathe deeply, with no suspicion of harm the invigorating air of a thoroughly healthful locality.

Media is located on the water shed between Ridley creek on the west and Crum creek on the east—both of which pursue their course to the

Delaware river through deep valleys far below the surface of the plateau or ridge upon which the Borough is built, thus securing a rapid and effective surface drainage, and offering rare advantage for a system of sewage for the dwellings. Beneath the surface soil is a micaceous loam often many feet in depth, lying upon a bed of *pseudo* or *schistose* granite, fissured and friable, so that the water falling upon the surface soil rapidly penetrates it to the underlying strata and thus finds its way to the numerous springs which bubble forth at the base of the hills. The water supply for the town is abundant, "soft," and without reproach. It is pumped from



RESIDENCE OF CHARLES H. PEDRICK.

Ridley creek into a reservoir situated on the highest point of land within the borough limits, and is thence distributed through iron pipes to the dwellings.

In the presence of these exceptional natural advantages, a perfect sanitary condition is so readily secured, that only public or individual carelessness, or the grossest ignorance of the plainest hygienic laws can ever bring about a state of things liable to endanger the health of the community.



## PLACES OF WORSHIP.

**M**EDIA is well supplied with places of public worship, the several church buildings having a seating capacity sufficient to accommodate the entire adult population of the borough. A glance at the illustrations will give an idea of the style of these structures.

The oldest place of worship is the Friends' (Hicksite) Meeting House, whose history antedates the Revolutionary war. It is one of the oldest places of worship in the county. The Friends of that faith still worship there.

The Orthodox Society of Friends has a substantial and commodious place of worship. It is a modern structure and it has been recently enlarged to meet the increasing demands of the Society. Besides the regular worship, the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings of the Friends of this district are held there.

The Methodist Episcopal church has a central location and is a commodious building, with a parsonage adjoining. It has a large and steadily increasing congregation. This church was established shortly after the organization of the Borough and it has been remodelled and enlarged to meet the increased demands of the public.

Christ Church, Protestant Episcopal, is a beautiful stone Gothic structure with a bell tower. A handsome stone parsonage is adjacent to the church. Its history dates back to the early days of the town, and it has a large congregation.

The Presbyterian church is a large structure and has a commanding appearance. It was erected in the early days of the Borough and has since been materially improved in its interior accommodations and adornments. The parsonage is a handsome structure. This church has a large membership.

The Baptist church has been recently erected. It is a plain but substantial church building and can seat a large congregation. Although it has been only a few years since the church was established, it has a large number of communicants. It also has a neat parsonage.

The present Catholic church was recently erected to take the place of a smaller structure. It is a fine specimen of church architecture and is one of the most substantial buildings at the county seat. It has a large attendance from the Borough and surrounding county. The parsonage adjoins the church building.

The African Methodist church is a plain, substantial brick building, where many of the colored people worship. It has a large congregation and is in a flourishing condition.

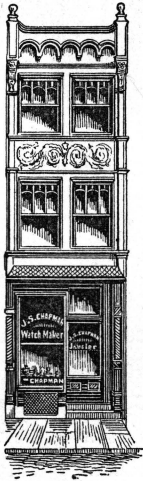
All the churches and places of worship have Sabbath schools which are well attended.

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## LAW AND ORDER.

BY HENRY C. HOWARD, ESQ.

**M**EDIA was incorporated as a borough by special Act of Assembly, approved March 11, 1850. At the following legislative session (1851), what is known as the "general borough law" was enacted, under which the great majority of the boroughs of the commonwealth are governed, the provisions of which do not, however, apply to Media by reason of its having a complete system of government provided in its special charter, previously granted.



**Capt. R. Buckley's New Store.**

J. S. CHAPMAN, LEASEE.

the old name of "The Burgess and Town Council of The Borough of Media," which awkward and inappropriate as it is, has never been changed.

The borough government is vested in a burgess and six members of a town council; the burgess and two members of the council being elected annually. The burgess has a right to a seat in the town council and to give the casting vote in case of a tie, on any question before that body. He has also the general powers of a justice of the peace, in criminal mat-

The charter which gave being to the present town is a cumbrous and somewhat confused piece of legislation, consisting of no less than thirty-four lengthy sections. Its text work cannot be said to reflect much credit on its draftsman. It is highly probable however, that the original draft may have been much more perspicuous, and that the obscurities and inconsistencies which mar it, were the result of the "patching" process which every proposed law is liable to undergo, in its passage through the legislature.

One of the curiosities of the charter is the corporate title which it conferred upon the town. Instead of calling it the Borough of Media, the Act of incorporation gives it

ters, and his warrant may be executed in any part of the county. \*All the other necessary borough officers, such as treasurer, assessor, constable, supervisor, &c., and all the necessary machinery for a complete borough government are provided for in the incorporating act.

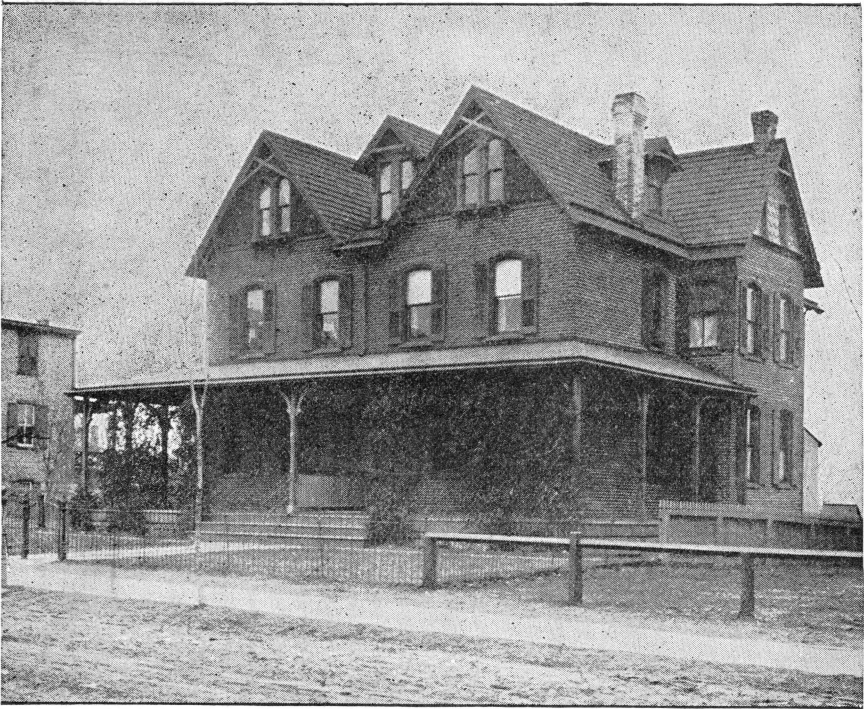
A number of supplements and amendments have been passed at different times, chiefly relating to the procuring of an adequate water supply and to the paving of the streets.

By far the most unique and interesting feature of this special charter is to be found in its 34th and last section, which singularly enough there has never been any serious attempt to change in any respect. This was the result of the efforts of a few earnest liquor prohibitionists of the time, and that they were ardent and radical in their opinions as to the wisdom of prohibiting the traffic in intoxicating beverages, is best evidenced by giving the section entire, which is as follows:—

"SEC. 34.—That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons, to vend or sell vinous, spiritous, or other intoxicating liquors within the limits of said borough, except for medical purposes or for use in the arts; and it shall not be lawful for the court of quarter sessions to grant any license or licenses therefor to any inn or tavern within said borough. If any person or persons shall within said borough vend or sell, or cause to be vended or sold, any vinous, spiritous or other intoxicating liquors to any person (except as provided in this section) such person or persons so vending or selling shall be liable to indictment and on conviction thereof shall forfeit and pay for every such offence a sum not less than twenty, nor more than one hundred dollars, at the discretion of the court, *Provided*, That it may be lawful for the court of quarter sessions of said county to license inns or taverns in said borough, without permission to vend or sell intoxicating drinks: *And provided*, Such license may be granted without the publication of any previous notice, as is required for other taverns."

It will be noticed that the maximum penalty of \$100 fine, for violation of this provision is very light compared with penalties which have been imposed by later statutes, for selling liquors without license, notably by the "Brooks' Bill" of 1887, under which the minimum punishment is \$500 fine and three months' imprisonment, and the maximum, *\$5000 fine and one year's imprisonment*. Notwithstanding the apparently inadequate penalties, which we would suppose (in view of the more modern ones which have been provided for similar offences) would only have invited violations of the charter, the instances in which prosecutions have been required to stop the illicit sale of intoxicants in the borough have been so few that they can scarcely be called. Indeed it is safe to say that no such prosecution has ever been known to the great majority of the present inhabitants of the town. The reason for this is quite apparent, and is

another of the many strong testimonies to the truthfulness of the proposition that there is no law so effective as the great unwritten law of public opinion. The town has grown up under prohibition. Its people have come to pay great respect to their charter, and while there are wide differences of opinion as to its inherent wisdom, in this regard, an overwhelming public sentiment, that will brook no interference, compels obedience to its mandates, in the absence of which the penalty provided for violation would be worthless.



J. WESLEY VERNON'S COTTAGE.

Whether this clause of the town charter has aided or retarded its material prosperity and growth is of course mere speculation and cannot be answered. It may be set down as reasonably certain however that the general sum of the happiness and good morals of its people has not been impaired thereby.

Whether the good order which has always marked the history of the borough can be directly or indirectly traced to its plan of government some of the more salient features of which have been thus hastily sketched, it is not a matter which admits of debate, that the order of the place is excellent. Several attempts have been made of recent years to maintain a

lock-up for the more convenient commitment of violaters of the town regulations, but such attempts have uniformly been total failures for want of subjects. The records of the committing magistrates of the town, show but very few cases of offences against the public peace, committed within its borders, and it is rare indeed that the criminal courts of the county have to take cognizance of such cases. While the candidates for office, which Media can furnish on the shortest notice, can no more be numbered than the sands of the sea, her candidates for the almshouse and jail are fortunately few.

The quiet and good order of the Borough of Media is shown by comparing the business it furnishes to the criminal courts with the business furnished by the entire county. Delaware county is certainly as orderly as any other county in the State and this comparison is very much in favor of the county town.

In examining the reports for the years 1886, 1887 and 1888, the cases returned to the criminal court from Media number 15, being 5 cases a year. The population of Media is somewhere about the one-twentieth the population of the county. A proportion for the county would make three hundred, but the records show that the number for those years from the county is 739. This is an exhibition of which we may reasonably be proud.

Media is peculiarly a town of homes, and its law and order contribute largely to the conditions which make it desirable as a place of residence. All forms of human government not only have their archetype, but their hope of continued existence, in the family home, and it is clearly the duty of every patriotic citizen, not only to encourage the largest possible number of true and happy homes, but the widest distribution of ownership in them. Every man living under our form of government, who acquires the ownership of a home, no matter how humble, strikes an anchor into the very bed-rock on which his government rests, which will be a power in preventing its being swept from its moorings by the storms of passion, or falling a prey to internal corruption. Few places afford better opportunities for the practical development and full fruition of this idea.



## CENTRAL DIVISION, P., W. & B. R. R.

THE headquarters of the Central Division of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad are located at the Media station, where Superintendent L. K. Lodge and his corps of assistants have their respective offices. The borough is well supplied with telegraphic and telephonic facilities, and two express companies have offices here.



## EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES.

BY SWITHIN C. SHORTLIDGE, A. M.

**T**O be convenient to churches and schools is the first requisite with those who wish to live in the country. They want modern, macadamized streets and roads, gas, the electric light, an abundance of pure water, good drainage, doctors, drug stores, cheap markets, picturesque surroundings, in short, just what Media affords—but above all, houses of worship and institutions at which educational advantages are the best.

At Media is an Institute of Science which has been engaged in educa-



F. M. & H. BROOKE'S COTTAGES ON ORANGE STREET.

tional work for many years. Its library and cabinets are still a potent factor in educational affairs. Brooke Hall was founded in 1856, and for over thirty years has stood among the foremost schools for girls. Bishop Alonzo Potter gave this institution continued care and supervision until his death. The principal, Miss Maria L. Eastman and her associates are teachers of wide reputation. A recent writer says Miss Eastman has become thoroughly conversant with the educational wants of the times,

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and the discharge of her responsible duties has won the respect and esteem of scores of young ladies, many of whom are now the heads of respected families throughout the land.

The Seminary building is a four-story, commodious structure, containing all modern conveniences arranged in strict accordance with the correct laws of health, comfort and refinement. The recitation and study rooms are large and cheerful, and the sleeping apartments, each occupied by but two pupils, present all the attractions of home comfort. The grounds are extensive, well shaded and artistically arranged with flowers,



SWITHIN C. SHORTLIDGE'S ACADEMY.

shrubbery, walks and drives. Illustrations of Brooke Hall and the private residence of the Principal will be found elsewhere in this publication.

The Shortlidge Media Academy was founded in 1875 by Swithin C. Shortlidge. The accommodations are two large buildings, the cuts of which are presented in this publication. The main building has room for two-thirds of the students. The others room at the Gayley annex. The dining room, recitation room, laboratory, library, &c., are in the main building. The following are the prominent features of Media Academy :

It admits and classifies young men and boys at any time ; fits them for Business, any College, Polytechnic School, for West Point or Annapolis.

Advanced classes in Physics, Chemistry, Surveying, Electrical or Civil Engineering, Classics, Mathematics, etc. One of the best equipped and best managed schools. All students board with the Principal. Teachers all men and graduates of first-class Colleges. Fine buildings; single or double rooms. Every room has in it a steam radiator and is completely furnished. Grounds (ten acres) for foot ball, base ball, athletics, etc. Gymnasium. Special opportunities for apt students to advance rapidly. Private tutoring and special drill for backward boys. Patrons or students



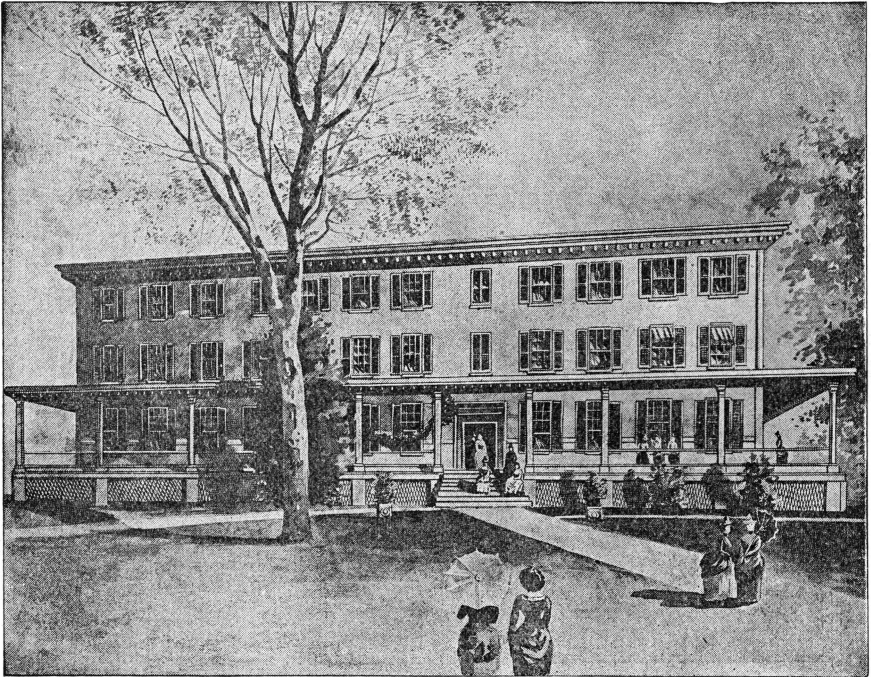
SWITHIN C. SHORTLIDGE'S ACADEMY ANNEX.

may select any studies or a Business College Preparatory, Electrical or Civil Engineering course. Physical and Chemical Laboratory. Practical Business department, with Telegraphy, Short-hand, Type-writing, etc., etc. More fully supplied with apparatus than any other College-fitting school. Media Academy affords every home comfort, the best education and the best training. Fixed prices cover every expense.

Graysdale, conducted by Miss Mary C. Williamson, is a select school for girls. The Principal has good facilities for her work, having within a few years, erected a suitable building at Jackson and Second street. where she is meeting with deserved success.

At the corner of Washington and Gayley streets is located the Friends'

School under the care of a Committee of Providence Preparative Meeting, This school is now in its fourth year of successful operation, having increased in number of pupils in attendance the present year to 61. The school is divided into primary, intermediate and high school departments and forms a part of one general system grading up to the Friends' Central School at 15th and Race streets, Philadelphia. There is also a special training class for teachers, a branch of the high school department. By an arrangement with Swarthmore College the members of the train,



BROOKE HALL SEMINARY.

ing class at Media school have valuable facilities in the observatory, the laboratory, etc. In addition to the usual branches of a good English education, Latin, French and German are taught. Elizabeth E. Hart is the Principal in charge, with a full corps of assistants.

The Orthodox Friends' school is located within the yard of the same Society's meeting house, situated on Third street, between Orange and Olive streets. It is a new neat brick structure, having a light, airy room, with seating capacity for about 25 pupils. There is a large and pleasant play ground to the north of the school building. The branches taught are those of a common English education, including, besides the ordinary branches, drawing, instruction in composition and a daily exercise in



calisthenics. The pupils have the free use of reference books. A care is exercised not only for the intellectual but also for the moral development of the children placed under its instruction. The teacher is Susan S. Forsythe.

The Public Schools of Media are the most important to the mass of her citizens and it is gratifying that we have one of the best buildings in the State. Erected in 1883 at a cost of \$22,000, it is provided with all conveniences found in schools of large cities. It is built of brick with stone



**MEDIA PUBLIC SCHOOL.**

trimmings, thoroughly heated with steam and provided with the best known ventilating system. Contains 12 rooms, two large halls with open stairways, retiring and cloak rooms, etc. At present Miss E. J. Brewster is principal and eight assistants are employed for a ten months' term. The course embraces a thorough English education with one year's study of Latin. Book keeping and business forms are also taught in a practical manner. The accompanying illustration will give an idea of its many advantages.

The private schools of Media draw their students from almost every State in the Union.

The different schools offer every inducement to parents who want to

select homes where they can patronize either the public or the private schools they may prefer.

The capital invested in Media schools is probably \$150,000.

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## NEWSPAPERS.

**M**EDIA has two weekly newspapers (see engravings) "The Delaware County American" and "The Delaware County Record." The "American" was founded in 1855, and is the leading Republican journal in the county. The "Record" is of more recent date, and is Independent in its politics. Both papers are in a prosperous con-



CHESTNUT GROVE HOUSE.

dition, have an extensive circulation both in and out of the county, and are popular advertising mediums. They are newsy, well edited journals and are amongst the best weekly newspapers of the State. Each has a job office connected with the newspaper.

The "American" started on its career with Cooper & Vernon as pub-

lishers, and it still carries the same names at the head of its columns—the senior Mr. Vernon being succeeded by his son, Thomas R. Vernon. The “Record” is published by Joseph Chadwick who, a few years ago became its sole owner. The proximity to Philadelphia makes these papers valuable for city advertising and they have a large share of that patronage.

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## THE FUTURE OF MEDIA.

AS far as indications can be relied on the future of the county seat is assured. It has passed that stage when all uncertainty is removed as to whether it has reached the climax of its standing. Its rapid and increasing growth; the steady appreciating values of lands; the beautiful and substantial character of its improvements; all show that it is yet in its infancy, and that with each year it offers additional inducements as a place of residence. There is no town in the State whose surroundings are more beautiful, more healthful, or more romantic, no place that is suburban to Philadelphia where there are more inviting sites for country residences. Hill and dale; woods and waters; all in combination may be found here within a short drive of the railroad, and some of them in its immediate proximity.

Northward a rising and rolling landscape overlooks the borough, beautified with gentle undulations awaiting the march of progress to plant them with homes. Eastward, within the Borough limits and along that historic “King’s Highway” the Providence road there are a number of desirable building sites. Westward, across Ridley Creek and extending to that ancient hostelrie known as the “Black Horse,” the broad depending plateau invites those desiring suburban homes to locate there. To the south and on both sides of the railroad there are many broad acres of beautiful country with sunny hill slopes, patches of woodland and glints of pure water, where the home seeker can have all combined in one building site. A birds-eye view from the steeple of the Court House reveals all these and adds to them a background of beauty combining the blue hills of the north with the silver sheen of the Delaware river hundreds of feet below. All these have contributed to the popularity of Media as a desirable place to locate, and they must continue to do so until the entire Borough and its surroundings are filled with beautiful residences and tastefully laid out lawns. Media is the centre of this picture, and it will be only a question of time when it will also be the centre of a circle of suburban homes, worthy of the location and the many inducements offered.

While Media at the present time has good railroad facilities the indications are that they will soon be increased. The double track which now extends from Philadelphia to Swarthmore will soon be extended to the borough. A direct railroad between Media and the city of Chester has been in contemplation for some time, and it is probable the line will be constructed at an early day. This will prove a great advantage to both places, and will open a valuable tract for suburban residences. It is also probable that said road will be extended northward, forming direct communication with the Pennsylvania and Reading railroads. It is only a question of time when a Telford road between Media and Philadelphia will be completed. A portion of it is already in use, and the company will push it to completion as rapidly as possible. A direct railroad to Chester will bring our people within twenty minutes of that city noted for its fruit, vegetable and fish markets, and at the same time will give us the benefits of river traffic and travel.

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## SOCIETIES.

THE Borough is well supplied with secret and other societies. They embrace a Masonic Lodge and Chapter, a Lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Knights of the Golden Eagle, Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Veterans, Patriotic Sons of America, Order of Chosen Friends, Young Men's Christian Association, T. A. B. Society and I. C. B. U. Society of the Catholic Church, lodges of colored Masons and Odd Fellows, besides numerous other beneficial organizations.

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## MARKETS.

MEDIA is well supplied with markets where all the food products may be obtained at Philadelphia prices. In addition to the market houses located here, the people are directly served by the farmers and gardeners of the surrounding country with the choicest meats, butter and other farm products. All the staples and luxuries of the city can be obtained from our dealers at the markets which are open during six days of the week. The butter made in this vicinity has a national reputation.

